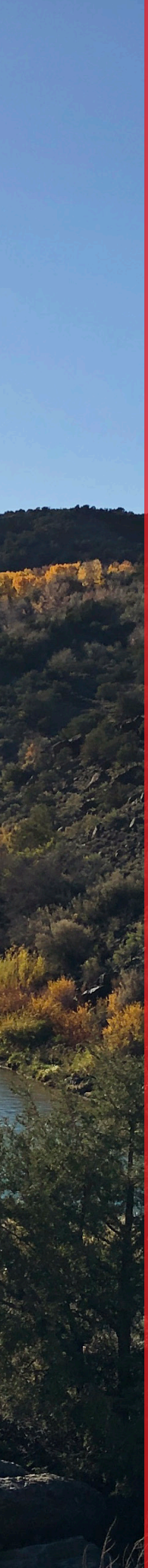
RTD
SERVING NORTH CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

Annual Report FY 2018

North Central Regional Transit District



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Board of Directors 2018

Chair

Daniel R. Barrone

- Mayor -

Town of Taos

Alternate

Miranda Quintana

Grants Administrator

Vice Chair

D. Tim Salazar

- Councilor -

City of Española

Alternate

Councilor Justin Salazar-Torres

Secretary/Treasurer

Ed Moreno

- Commissioner -

Santa Fe County

Alternate

Anna Hansen

Commissioner

Commissioner
Scott Flury
Village of Chama
Alternate
Matthew Gallegos
County Manager

Councilor
Linda Holle
Town of Edgewood
Alternate
Juan Torres
Clerk Administrator

Councilor
Antonio Maggiore
Los Alamos County
Alternate
Philo S. Shelton III
Public Works Director

Lieutenant Governor
Arnold Garcia
Nambe Pueblo
Alternate
Marcus Lopez
Tribal Sheriff

Transportation Planning Manager
Chirsty Van Buren
Ohkay Owingeh
Alternate
Ben Lujan
Public Works Director

Facilities Director
Anna Sanchez
Pojoaque Pueblo
Alternate
Jeff Montoya
Assistant To Special Projects

Commissioner
Danny J. Garcia
Rio Arriba County
Alternate
Tomás Campos
County Manager

Transportation Planning Director
Lillian Garcia
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Alternate
Stephen Martinez
Natural Resources Director

Tribal Sheriff
James Baca
Santa Clara Pueblo
Alternate
Mary Lou Valerio
Transportation Planner

Councilor
Carol Romero-Wirth
City of Santa Fe
Alternate
Keith Wilson
Division Director of Administration and Grants

Commissioner
Jim Fambro
Taos County
Alternate
Leandro R. Cordova
County Manager

Former Governor
Charles Dorame
Tesuque Pueblo
Alternate
Edward Escudero P.E.
Director of Transportation

Ex-Officio Member: Terry Doyle | Rio Metro RTD – Alternate Elizabeth Carter

NCRTD Vision Statement:

"To be the leading rural public transportation organization connecting communities and enhancing cultural, environmental, social and economic opportunities for the betterment of our region."

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:
DANIEL R. BARRONE

I am very proud to present our Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report for North Central Regional Transit District. The year has been marked by great accomplishments and we have been particularly honored by the national recognition we have received on many levels.

Most significant though, is that we put in motion the work to place the reauthorization of the regional transit gross receipts tax and removal of the 2023 expiration of the tax on the November 2018 ballot. In the end, the people of the District spoke loudly and forcefully by approving the reauthorization with a more than 74% cumulative vote of support throughout the four-county area. A true referendum and resounding endorsement for what we have been building here over the past ten years, and in the end with support more than 17% higher than in the 2008 election which first implemented the transit gross receipts tax.

We have been recognized three times in the past 12 months by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), an agency within the USDOT. Two grants have been awarded which will go towards the construction of a new maintenance facility, fueling station and wash bays to be located on the grounds of the Española headquarters. We also received the privilege to have been recognized, for the second time in four years, with the FTA Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service in Rural Public Transportation, which is among the highest national honors in rural public transit.

One of the hallmarks of our year has been the wonderful opportunities we have had to get out into the communities and take part in public events that celebrate the people of the district and reinforce the role public transit and the RTD has in building our communities. Events such as Taos Touch-a-Truck and Trunk-or-Treat; Community Day in the Santa Fe Plaza and Santa Fe Fiestas Parade; Halloween on Main Street in Los Alamos; the Española Holiday Light Parade; and Run, Rally & Rock in Edgewood. It's always heartening to see the support we get from the people who come out, and the smiles on their faces, as well as the appreciation they share for the service we provide

I am proud to serve alongside the NCRTD Board that is assembled each month to represent all the people of the District. The Board works tirelessly and with passion to adopt procedures, policies and resolutions to ensure that progress is continually taking place, improvements are made and the public is better served.

The District management team continues to be a national example of a transit agency that sets the bar for other agencies to model themselves after – the FTA Administrator's Award proved that as well as recognitions by GFOA for the Annual Budget and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

I would especially like to acknowledge the transit operators who are out in the field on a daily basis, going above and beyond and delivering service with a smile to make for as pleasant experience for our riders as possible.

I look forward to continuing to serve the NCRTD and the people of the District to contribute to its growth and progress. I remain humbled as a member of the Board to guide the District as I fully believe we are providing a critical service to the fine people of North Central New Mexico.

Thank you,

Daniel R. Barrone
NCRTD Chair

NCRTD Mission Statement:

"To provide safe, secure and effective public transportation within North Central New Mexico in order to enhance the quality of life of our citizens by providing mobility options and economic opportunities throughout the region."

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE REGION
FROM: ANTHONY J. MORTILLARO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's my honor to present to you the North Central Regional Transit District's (NCRTD) Annual Report to the Region. During Fiscal Year 2018 the NCRTD continued to experience success as it completed its 11th year of service to the residents within the District and in having reached a new milestone in respect to an all-time high in ridership with 289,441 riders for the year. However, since the District funds the provision of certain transit services in other agencies, 785,039 trips were cumulatively provided. These ridership numbers confirm that the public transportation services we provide and fund within North Central New Mexico are essential so that constituents may attend to their medical, work, educational and general mobility needs, and also support the freedom to get there.

In November 2018, the District achieved a significant threshold with the voter approved reauthorization of its Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax. This reauthorization verified that the voters in the District concurred that the District has lived up to its commitments made in 2008 when the original tax was approved. It also confirms that the transit services provided by the District are viewed by both non-users of the system and those that ride the buses as an essential lifeline service, for those who don't have any transportation options, as well as for those who chose to use public transit. Furthermore, the removal of the 2023 sunset allows the District the ability to borrow funds should it need to seek long-term debt financing for important infrastructure needs such as maintenance facilities, land acquisitions and other equipment needs.

For the upcoming year the District is anticipating continued investment in its ability to serve our customers as a result of additional fleet replacements with greater rider comfort improvements. We are also proceeding to the final design of the Maintenance Facility which will provide an enhanced environment for the timely maintenance of the fleet. This facility will also include the construction of a fleet fueling facility in order to decrease fuel costs. Additionally, we will continue with bus stop improvements to ensure that they are compliant with the Americans with Disability Act. Lastly, the District will be embarking on an update of its Short-Range Service Plan. Updating the plan requires the involvement of our constituents to provide input related to existing services and for any desired future service expansions. Multiple meeting opportunities within our service area will be scheduled so that your participation can be facilitated.

The District is resolute in continuing to operate in a transparent manner and a commitment to excellence with guidance from the Board of Directors, collaboration with our riders, constituents, member entities and elected officials. Our continuing success in the future requires the efforts of all stakeholders.

I hope you will find this Annual Report informative and useful. As you read this report and note the accomplishments and services enumerated herein, the delivery of which are carried out daily by many caring team members whose skills and commitment make the NCRTD the remarkable transit agency it is today. I am privileged and honored to be one of the many team members contributing to our success.

With respect,

Anthony J. Mortillaro
Executive Director

NCRTD Functional Areas Diagram

Policy is established by the Board and is carried out by the Executive Director.
Executive Director oversees all functional areas and is supported in this oversight by Department Directors and Divisional Managers along with supervisory personnel who report to the Department Directors or Divisional Managers.
Due to the leanness of the organization many of the functional areas shown on the diagram are not staffed, but performed by one individual with multiple responsibilities.
Fleet maintenance is contracted out. Facility maintenance functions are performed by staff.

Transportation Administration/ Service/Operations/Maintenance
(Delilah Garcia,Transit & Facilities Operations Director)
Customer Service, Fixed Route, Customer Relations, Dispatch, Demand Response, Para Transit, Communter Routes, Fleet/Facilities Mgmt., Training, Safety, Emergency Planning, Scheduling, Service Implementation
Maintenance/Fleet & Facilities
(David Funck, Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Manager reporting to Transit & Facilities Operations Director)
Administrative & Board Support
[Exec Dir. , Exec. Asst. Stephen Dahlquist (Clerk of the Board) and contract minute taker]
Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations
(Exec. Dir.)
Finance, Accounting, Procurement & Risk Management
(Hector Ordoñez, Finance Director/ Chief Procurement Officer)
Anthony J. Mortillaro
Executive Director
(Leadership and management in support of the goals and objectives of the Board of Directors)
Public Information/ Marketing/ Records Retention/Public Records Requests
(Jim Nagle, Public Information Officer)
Legal
(Peter Dwyer, Legal Counsel (part-time) reporting to Executive Director and clerical support by Exec. Asst.)
Information Technologies/Telecom
(Steady Networks, contracted out with oversight by Ex. Dir .)
Regional Transit Planning, Service Development/Special Projects/Grant Development/Tribal Support/ITS/Service Development and Assesment
(Stacey McGuire, Transit Planning, Projects & Grants Manager reporting to Ex. Dir)
Human Resources/Employee Relations/Customer Service/Safety
(Dora Anaya, Human Resources Director with clerical performed by Exec. Asst.)

FY2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

In Fiscal Year 2018, the NCRTD Board of Directors maintained an active agenda tackling a wide range of items to the benefit of the residents of the District and insure that the NCRTD runs smooth and efficient. New policies and procedures were established, and existing ones were looked at and evaluated to make the District as financially prudent, accountable, well-run and resourceful as possible.

In FY 2018, the NCRTD Board welcomed the Village of Chama as it newest member with the number of represented seats now at 15.

In April, the Board held an election of officers which occurs every two years. Daniel Barrone, Mayor of the Town of Taos retained his seat as Chair, a position he has held since 2012; Dennis Tim Salazar, City of Española Councilor, was named Vice-Chair (he formerly acted as Treasurer); and Santa Fe County Commissioner, Ed Moreno, was elected Treasurer.

The Board also welcomed four new member representatives: City of Santa Fe Councilor, Carol Romero-Worth assumed the seat vacated by Joseph Maestas; Councilor Scott Flury will fill the new Village of Chama seat; Councilor Linda Holle will represent the Town of Edgewood replacing long-time member Chuck Ring; and Commissioner Danny Garcia was named to replace Commissioner Alex Naranjo on behalf of Rio Arriba County.

The Finance Subcommittee continued to meet on a monthly basis and the Tribal Subcommittee, as needed, to review matters under its purview and make recommendations to the Board.

This year, a series of 41 Resolutions were adopted by the Board, among them:

- A resolution adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)
- Resolutions authorizing and ratifying an NCRTD application for Federal funding through the Low or No Emissions Grant Program for a Maintenance Facility Wash Bay and Fueling Station
- Resolution adopting a policy for incidental use of District property
- Adoption of the FY 2018 annual service plan submitted by the City of Santa Fe and Los Alamos County providing for specific regional routes funded by the NCRTD and Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax
- A resolution providing for the continuation of the adopted fare structure as it relates to fixed route service, premium service and flex service (up to ¾ mile from a fixed route)
- A resolution authorizing the NCRTD to adopt a systemwide annual route assessment
- Resolution to support community and local government, and state tax stabilization from National Laboratories in New Mexico
- Adoption of the FY 2019 Budget
- Adoption of the FY 2019 Compensation Plan and Performance Matrix
- Resolution approving a request to each of the four District counties to place the GRT reauthorization on the November 2018 ballot
- A resolution adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan
- A resolution authorizing and directing staff to seek Build America Grant Program funding

The District adopted a balanced operating budget for Fiscal Year 2018 of $13,154,374

Fiscal Year 2018 the District received revenues in the amount of $11,874,981

The District received $869,893 more than it spent

Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Highlights

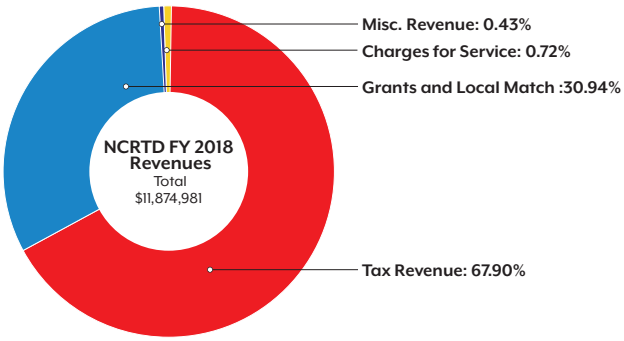
This Annual Report contains summarized financial information taken in part from the North Central Regional Transit District's (NCRTD's) 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which is published separately.

This Annual report is a summary created for general readership to inform those without financial and or accounting background and as such it does not contain all the information available in the District's CAFR. Users desiring additional or more comprehensive information such as financial information presented in accrual method, by classification, Management's Discussion Analysis and/or Audited Financial statements please refer to the CAFR.

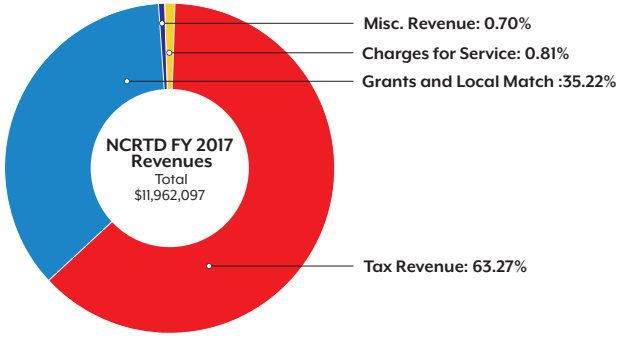
The 2018 CAFR is available at District's headquarters building in Española and on the District's website at www.ncrtd.org, in the "Reports" section under "About Us."

BUDGET:

On June 30, 2017, the District adopted a balanced operating budget for Fiscal Year 2018 of $13,154,374 million. Revenues received during the 2018 Fiscal Year were $11,874,981 vs. $11,005,088* of expenses incurred. This means that the District received $869,893 more than it spent.



Tax Revenue: $8,063,102
Charges for Service: $85,779
Grants and Local Match : $3,674,611
Miscellaneous Revenue: $51,489



Tax Revenue: $7,568,341
Charges for Service: $96,445
Grants and Local Match : $4,213,188
Miscellaneous Revenue: $84,123

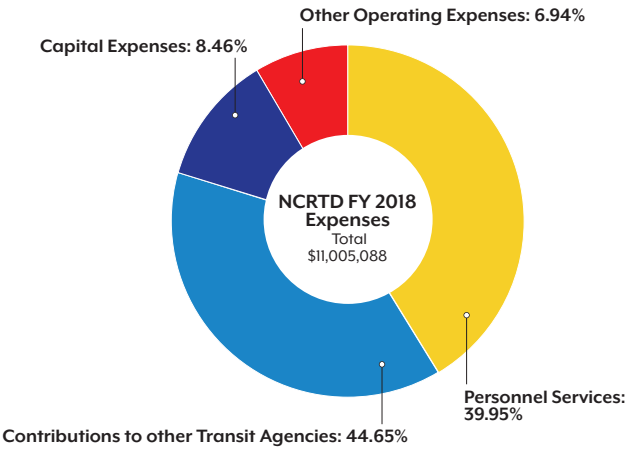
REVENUES:

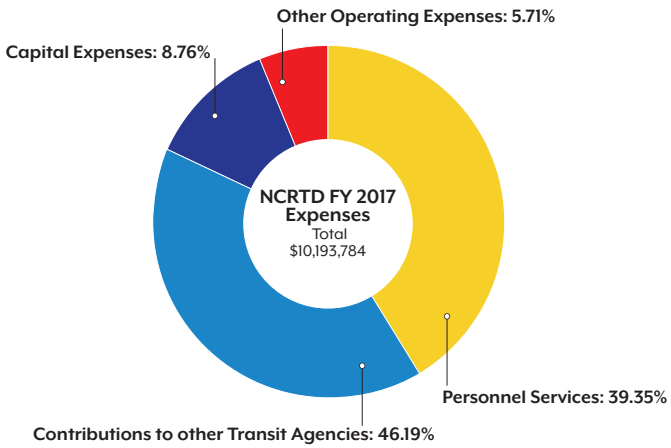
For Fiscal Year 2018 the District received revenues in the amount of $11,874,981. The revenues were received from the following sources: Federal and state grants (30.94%), Transit Gross Receipt Taxes (67.90%), and miscellaneous sources (1.16%). The slight decrease in revenue during FY2018 is related to reimbursable grant revenue for capital projects that were completed in FY2017, no state appropriations received in FY2018 and significantly more insurance proceeds received during FY2017 (insurance proceeds are recorded under miscellaneos revenue).

Expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2018 totaled $11,005,088

GRT Contributions to other Transit Agencies (40.99%)

Personnel services salaries (36.68%)





Personnel Services: $4,396,492
Contributions to other Transit Agencies: $4,913,701
Capital Expenses: $930,932
Other Operating Expenses: $763,963

Personnel Services: $4,011,384
Contributions to other Transit Agencies: $4,708,159
Capital Expenses: $892,676
Other Operating Expenses: $581,565

EXPENSES:

Expenses incurred during Fiscal Year 2018 totaled $11,005,088 consisting of the following: GRT Contributions to other Transit Agencies (40.99%), Personnel services salaries (36.68%), Capital outlay* (8.46%), and Other Operating Expenses (6.94%). The largest expenditure category at related to GRT contributions made to other Transit agencies that provide services within the District's service area such as: the New Mexico Rail Runner, Santa Fe Trails and Atomic City Transit in Los Alamos County. The slight increase in expenses is net effect of increases in salaries, benefits, insurance costs and contributions to other transit agencies due to an increase in GRT.

OVERALL:

For the fiscal year 2018 ending June 30, 2018, AXIOM, CPAs and Business Advisors, the District's external auditors, expressed an unmodified opinion which is the best opinion that can be received (often referred to as a 'clean' audit).

The NCRTD Finance department oversees and handles all financial aspects of the District that is inclusive of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Payroll and maintaining the General Ledger. The Finance Department is also responsible for all the aspects of the District's financial obligations and reporting in relation to grants compliance and procurements.

A high standard of excellence, fiscal responsibility and values drives the District's Finance Department the goal of the department is to provide outstanding levels of support and timely and cost-effective service and products while conforming to the highest level of Ethical standards.

* The NCRTD's CAFR is presented under the accrual basis of accounting method in which revenues are recognized when earned and measurable and expenses are recognized when incurred. Additionally, The Annual report does not include non-cash expenses that as depreciation, amortization, write-offs, etc.

NCRTD RECEIVES GFOA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The NCRTD received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.

Acknowledged in the Certificate of Achievement was the NCRTD Finance Department comprised of Finance Director Hector Ordoñez and Financial Analyst Pat Lopez.

This award reflects the commitment of the NCRTD to meet the highest principles of governmental accounting, financial reporting and standards of communication and accountability to the constituents of Northern New Mexico. The District was graded proficient in each category and this is the highest rating available in government accounting and it is a significant achievement for the District.

In November of 2017, the department received its second consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2018 budget by the GFOA.

NCRTD RECEIVES FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE IN RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The North Central Regional Transit District has received the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service in Rural Public Transportation. This marks the second time in four years that the District has received this top honor.

The Award was presented to NCRTD Chair and Mayor of the Town of Taos, Daniel Barrone and Executive Director Anthony Mortillaro by FTA Acting Administrator, K. Jane Williams, during the 23rd National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation conference in Breckenridge, Colorado on October 1, 2018.

The winners of this year's Administrator's Award were selected under the criteria by which rural transit providers demonstrate how their transit system is integral to the infrastructure of the community. "Changing Lives and Strengthening Communities by Creating Value and Enhancing Infrastructure," was the moniker under which the winners were chosen.

In acknowledging the Award, the FTA stated that, the Administrator's Awards "are made to rural transit providers that have improved the mobility of Americans in rural areas, providing them better access to employment, health care, and other community services."

In 2014, FTA Acting Administrator, Therese McMillan also recognized the NCRTD for Outstanding Public Service in Rural Public Transportation.

David Harris, Transit and Rail Division Director for the New Mexico Department of Transportation, nominated the NCRTD and stated, "To say that the NCRTD has more than fulfilled the goals of the New Mexico Regional Transit District Act since it began service would not overstate its impact. It continues to set the standard for rural transit in New Mexico, and nationally, but most importantly for the communities it serves."

The residents of north central New Mexico can share and take pride in this award. When the NCRTD was certified as the first regional transit district in the state of New Mexico, there were many who dreamed that a more than 10,000 square mile, four-county area of northern New Mexico could be connected by a network of bus transit routes to provide residents of urban and rural areas access to jobs, education, medical and quality- of-life services. This FTA acknowledgment shows that it can happen.

VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY REAUTHORIZE THE REGIONAL TRANSIT GROSS RECEIPTS TAX AND REMOVE THE 2024 SUNSET

On November 6, voters in the four counties that make up the North Central Regional Transit District approved the reauthorization of the Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax (RTGRT) and the removal of the sunset /expiration in 2024.

The measure received unanimous support in each of the four counties and was passed by a cumulative vote of more than 74% in favor. When the voters first approved the RTGRT in 2008, it passed with 57.4 percent in favor.

At the time the RTGRT was enacted, a January 1, 2024 sunset of the tax was imposed by the District's four counties. The County ordinances required that the NCRTD go back to the voters to extend the tax beyond that date. The sunset was never part of the November 2008 ballot issue and therefore was not expressly voted on by the public.

In a 2015 Long Range Strategic Plan prepared for the District and ratified by the NCRTD Board, it was recommended that the NCRTD seek to repeal the sunset provision, by ballot question, as early as the November 6, 2018 general election, rather than wait until 2022 general election or a 2023 special election prior to the January 2024 sunset. This would have allowed multiple opportunities to go before the voters in general elections, or by special election to remove the sunset and allow for continuation of the RTGRT.

In 2004, the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) became the first Regional Transit District created in the State of New Mexico following the passage of the New Mexico Regional Transit District Act, in 2003, which enabled the formation of multi- jurisdictional transit agencies. The legislation was put forth and enacted to provide safe and efficient regional transit services to transit-dependent groups such as seniors, youth, low income and mobility-impaired residents, veterans, and further to provide residents with access to education, higher paying jobs, medical and quality-of-life services.

In addition to Federal grants and 5311 funding, a 1/8th cent Regional Transit Gross Receipts Tax was passed in 2008 by general election in each of the four counties within the District (Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Taos and Los Alamos) and goes to support the NCRTD. From the Gross Receipts Taxes (GRT) it collects each year, the NCRTD contributes to regional transportation services provided by other transit operators in its four-county area. In FY 2018, a total of $4,655,650 went to support the New Mexico Rail Runner Express ($2.25 million projected), Los Alamos Atomic City Transit ($1.44 million); and Santa Fe Trails ($1,011,150). Even more significantly, since FY 2010, the overall total RTGRT that has been given for regional transit services these entities provide is $35,636,023; of that $17 million went to NM Rail Runner, $10.9 million to LA Atomic City Transit and $7.8 million to Santa Fe Trails.

EVENING RTD NIGHT RIDER BUS SERVICE LAUNCHES IN THE TOWN OF TAOS

The NCRTD has begun a pilot program to provide Friday and Saturday evening service between the Town of Taos and the Taos Ski Valley.

RTD 380 Night Rider, as it's being called, will coincide with the District's 341 TSV Green route between the Town and the Taos Ski Valley. The service will operate through March 23.

Service is provided on two roundtrips beginning in the Town at 6:10 PM and run though 10:10 PM. The route provides service to hotels, restaurants and bars along Paseo del Pueblo, the famous town Plaza and the communities of El Prado, Arroyo Seco, Valdez and the Taos Ski Valley.

This represents a significant move for the NCRTD as it is the first time the District has offered nighttime service.

The RTD is working with the Town of Taos and the Village of Taos Ski Valley to garner support from the community and make this an on-going service

The Village of Taos Ski Valley has long wanted to provide a bus service to its residents and visitors that would offer access to the Town in the evenings, while the Town of Taos recognized the value of providing the Town with access to services and amenities on the mountain.

SERVICE UPDATES:

190 JICARILLA ESTABLISHED AS A PERMANENT ROUTE

The 190 Jicarilla route which began on October 2, 2017 as a one-year pilot program has now been established as a permanent route following a successful year, strong ridership and great support from the community.
The Jicarilla route provides transit service between Dulce, Chama and Farmington. The route was launched in partnership with the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

At 112 miles, the Jicarilla route is the longest in the RTD system and not only be able to provide the Nation with access to Chama and Farmington, but ultimately with connections to Española, Santa Fe, Taos and Albuquerque.

Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, service is provided between Chama and Dulce On Tuesday and Thursday, service extends from Chama and Dulce, to Bloomfield and Farmington in San Juan County.

CHILE RIDE TAOS DEMAND SERVICE BECOMES PERMANENT

In April, the District launched its first-ever demand service in the Town of Taos as a six-month pilot program. As a result of the consistent growth in ridership over the period, the service has been permanently established in the Town.

The Taos Demand service helps to fill that critical, much talked about, first/last mile service which all transit agencies struggle to find solutions for. The coverage area is ¾ of a mile on either side of the RTD Chile Red route. It encompasses the Town as well as some adjacent sections of Taos County and reaches into Ranchos de Taos and El Prado.

TRANSIT SERVICE PLAN UPDATE TO BEGIN IN THE NEW YEAR

The NCRTD will begin an update of its Transit Service Plan in January 2019. The comprehensive plan will be conducted with a consultant and cover a seven-year period from 2019 to 2026.

The plan will include an assessment of existing services, identify future recommended service opportunities and layout a series of implementation strategies.

In addition to focusing on the entire NCRTD service area, it will look at where and how the system connects to other transit providers including NMDOT Park & Ride, NM Rail Runner Express, Santa Fe Trails bus system, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo's PoPay Messenger, Atomic City Transit in Los Alamos and Red River Miner's Transit. It will even take into consideration Red Apple Transit in Farmington which connects to the RTD 170 Jicarilla route.

The Transit Service Plan Update will consider mobility issues and also related topics such as economic development, air quality, housing, job creation, access to healthcare and education, environmental sustainability and energy consumption. The plan will also consider future opportunities to provide a safe, reliable and revolutionized mode of transportation in concert with the District's Mission and Vision statements.

The update will consider the general needs of the traveling public as well as the specific needs of particular sub-markets including, though not limited to, businesses, university students, K-12 school-aged children, elderly people, veterans and people with disabilities. The final plan will also consider people who do not currently use local public transportation and describe how non-users may be encouraged to become transit passengers by identifying what specific barriers or objections non-users have and how NCRTD might overcome those barriers or objections.

Stakeholder and public involvement will be critical throughout the process. A key component in the plan update will be a series of up to 20 community meetings to be held throughout the district to garner feedback, evaluate and assess the existing transit system's ability to meet travel needs and identify any needs currently not being met.

The meetings will be held in communities in each of the four counties, as well as the six NCRTD member pueblos and Farmington and Bloomfield in San Juan County.

In 2013, the NCRTD collaborated with an outside contractor to expand and update its initial Transit Service Plan that had been developed in 2008.

NCRTD FY 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ESTABLISHES GOALS AND STANDARDS TO SECURE AND MAINTAIN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC IN MATTERS OF THE DISTRICT

Each year, the NCRTD Board approves a "Legislative Agenda" that is used as a guide to set the course for responding to legislative matters at the state and federal level that could have an impact on District operations.
The NCRTD Board and Staff will seek to advocate on behalf of protecting District interests during the New Mexico State Legislative Session and work with state and federal officials to establish priority items for legislative review and enactment.

This year there were 16 legislative priorities at the State level and seven at the Federal level. Probably the most significant, which crossed over both the federal and state levels was support for funding and maintaining the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act provides long-term funding for surface transportation meaning that States and local governments can move forward with critical transportation projects, like new highways and transit lines. This includes funding for the Federal Transit Administration's bus and bus facilities program.

Another significant priority established District and Board support to Los Alamos County to establish a taxable structure for the management of the state's National Laboratories, including the Los Alamos National Lab.

It's also about setting an agenda that allows the District Chair and Executive Director to get out and build relationships with State and Federal political representatives. Two substantial Federal grants were awarded this past year. In addition to the $3.6 million FTA grant towards the construction of the new maintenance facility, was a $1.29 million Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant through the United States Department of Transportation that was jointly announced by US Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, and US Representative Ben Ray Lujan each from New Mexico.

In making the announcement, the senators and representative commented:

"The North Central Regional Transit District is indispensable to northern New Mexico, connecting communities, businesses, and essential services from Santa Fe to Ghost Ranch and Española to Taos," said Udall, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "This funding is critical to revitalizing our public infrastructure and supporting rural areas that are linked to schools, hospitals, and jobs through our public transit system. I'll continue fighting to secure funding to improve North Central RTD for those who travel on it every day, and for strong investment in public transportation that will encourage economic development in communities across New Mexico."

"North Central Regional Transit District 'Blue Buses' provide critical transportation for northern New Mexico residents," said Heinrich. "I'm proud to help secure this major federal investment in the bus system that allows people across the Northern Pueblos and Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, San Juan, and Taos Counties to access school, work opportunities, and health care. This mobility is especially important for veterans, students, seniors, and those living with disabilities. I will continue fighting for transportation investments that connect our state's rural communities and support long-term economic development."

"This funding will bolster vital transportation options in our region," said Luján. "The North Central Regional Transit District has long connected rural communities in New Mexico with educational and professional opportunities, while bettering our environment. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator Udall and Senator Heinrich to ensure public transportation systems in New Mexico are getting the funding they need to provide essential services to New Mexicans."

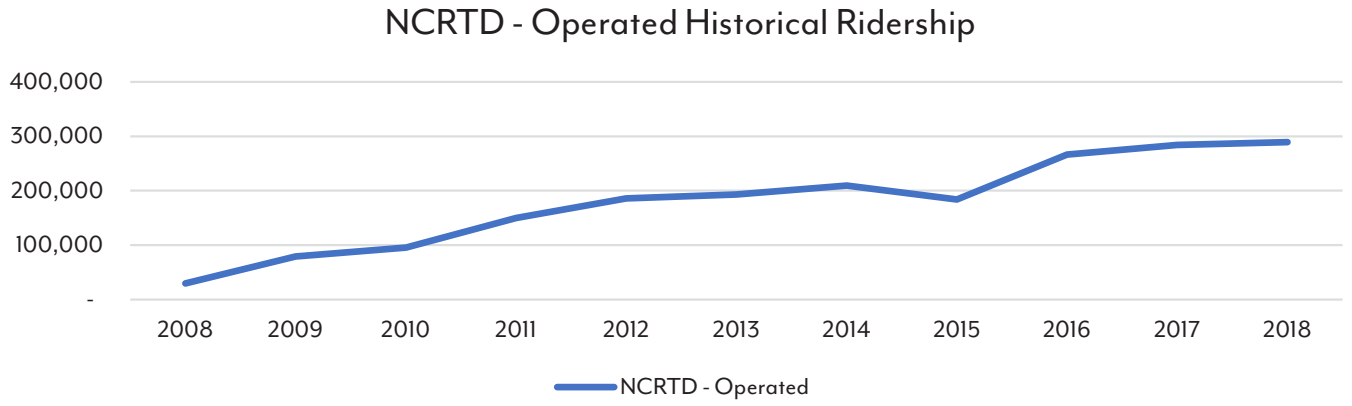
NCRTD POSTS ANOTHER YEAR OF RECORD RIDERSHIP IN FY 2018: Continues Year-Over-Year Trend in Increases

The NCRTD again celebrated record ridership in FY 2018 posting a 1.8 percent increase in rides and making it the largest number of passengers served within a given year.

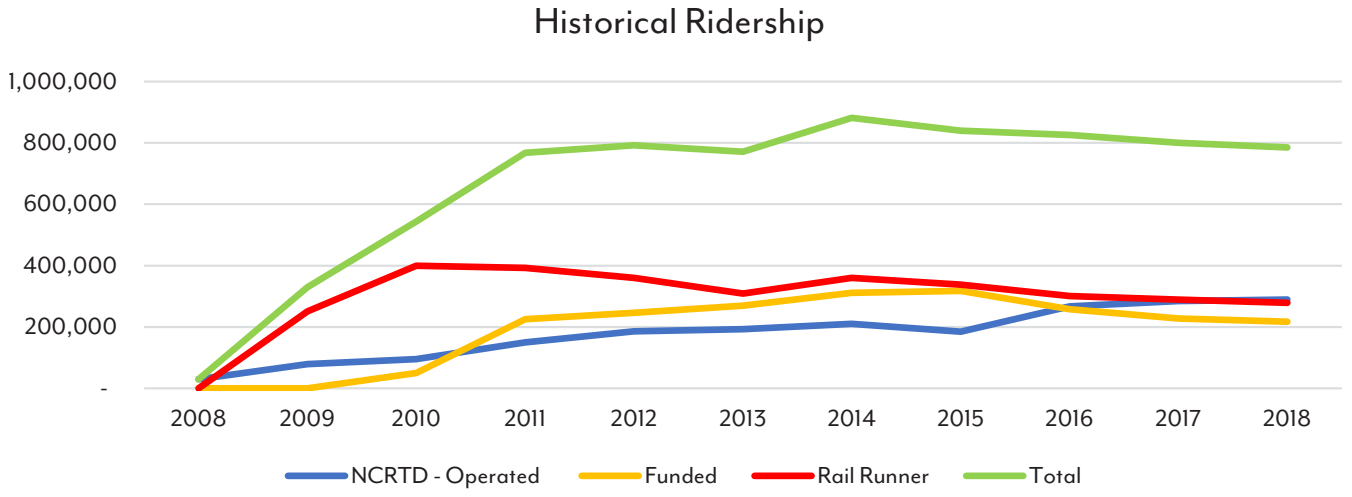
Passenger trips for all NCRTD-operated routes totaled 289,441 in FY 2018 over 284,285 in FY2017. The NCRTD provided service on 25 fixed routes throughout North Central New Mexico, one demand response route, one dial-a-ride service and complementary paratransit service in the Taos area.

Among the routes seeing the greatest increase in passenger trips were the 110 Westside/ Crosstown in Española, the 320 Questa Route, 150 Chimayo Route and the 350 UNM Taos route.

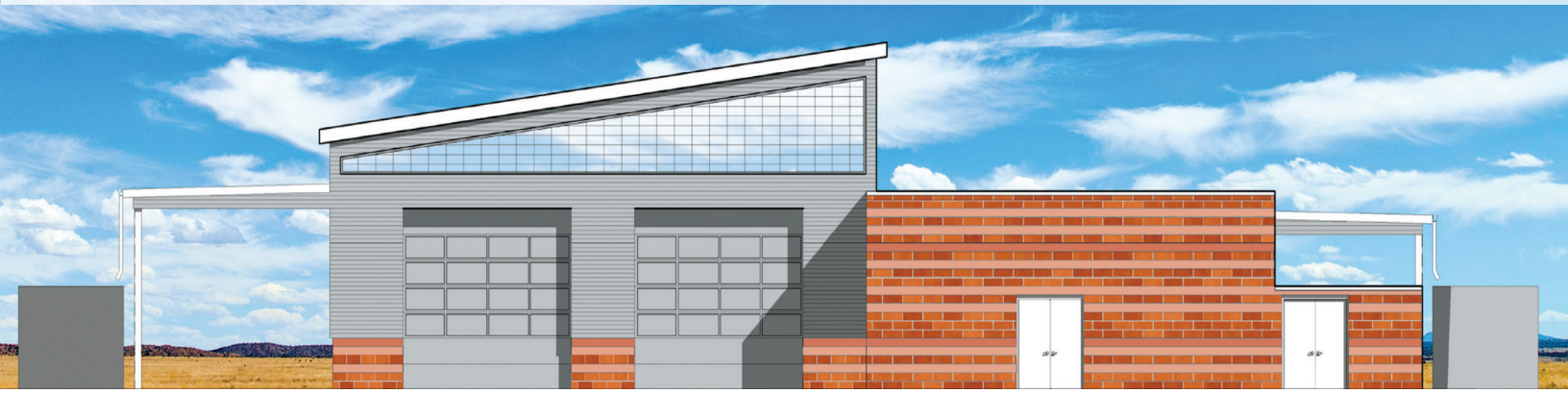
The District continues to post increased ridership at a time when transit systems nationally have been seeing minor declines in ridership due to reduced fuel prices.



An analysis of all NCRTD-funded routes for FY 2018 shows a .5 percent increase after two years of declining ridership. "NCRTD-funded routes" represents regional routes funded by the NCRTD and serviced by Santa Fe Trails bus system, Los Alamos Atomic City Transit and NM Rail Runner Express. In Santa Fe, funding goes to support routes #2, #4 and #22, its Santa Fe Pick-Up, and shuttle services for special events such as Folk Art Market, Spanish Market, Indian Market, Zozobra and the Holiday Farolito Walk on Canyon Road. In Los Alamos, it funds Los Alamos Atomic City Transit buses between Los Alamos and White Rock. With NM Rail Runner Express it funds southbound train service out of Santa Fe.



FY 2018 MARKED BY FLEET UPGRADES AND ADVANCEMENTS



In fiscal year 2018, the NCRTD continued to expand its fleet and replace older vehicles with newer and more efficient models to provide top service for the 289,441 trips on NCRTD operated vehicles in FY 2018. RTD vehicles in, FY2018, logged in more than 1.42 million miles which would be equivalent to driving one way coast to coast, from New York to Los Angeles 509 times. For this reason, the District remains committed to continually upgrade and enhance its fleet of 55 passenger vehicles.

There were eight vehicles purchased that were placed into service in fiscal year 2018. Those include two 18-passenger vehicles and six 14-passenger vehicles.

2018 Fleet Upgrades

14-passenger vehicles

+

18-passenger vehicles

This coming fiscal year, 2019, the NCRTD will purchase seven new replacement vehicles: six 14-passenger and one 25-passenger.

To support the utilization of alternative fuels and increase the environmental sustainability the buses on order will be equipped to support conversion to LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) providing the District viable "Green" options. Price concessions have been secured with our current LPG supplier and negotiations are on-going to provide LPG at the future Transit Maintenance Facility.

A contingency fleet of at least 20 percent is always maintained in accordance with FTA regulations and guidelines.

The NCRTD remains committed to the development of a Transit Maintenance Facility, Vehicle Wash Bay and Fueling Station complex to be located at the District headquarters in Española. In FY 2018 the NCRTD received a $3.6 million grant from the FTA towards the construction of the 12,000 sq. ft. facility. A second FTA grant, totaling $ 1.29 million was awarded in the second quarter of FY 2019 through the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development) Grants program. The facility is currently projected to open in February of 2021.

NCRTD: OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Every year NCRTD is excited to participate in community events around the northern New Mexican counties we serve. This year we were able to take part in events new and old. From the Española Light Parade, Trunk-or-Treat, Santa Fe Fiesta, Touch-a-Truck, Edgewood's Run, Rally and Rock, Los Alamos' Halloween on Main Street to the opening of the new Public Library stop in Taos, the NCRTD made an appearance as the iconic Blue Bus.

EMPLOYEE CORNER: ABOVE AND BEYOND

In Fiscal Year 2018, NCRTD was honored to recognize 3 outstanding individuals who went ABOVE and BEYOND in their duties and services to NCRTD's community.

Through their commitment to NCRTD's mission and vision they embody NCRTD, as an organization, and as an asset to the northern New Mexico community.

Francis Talamante Spring 2018

Mark Lopez Summer 2018

Michael Broussard Fall 2018

Celebrating years of service with the North Central Regional Transit District's Board of Directors

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